

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

A. COURTNEY COX  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

---

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

---

*For Immediate Release*

**WOOD RIVER WOMAN SENTENCED FOR TAX EVASION, THEFT FROM  
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS AND FAILURE TO PAY EMPLOYMENT TAXES**

A. Courtney Cox, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 7, 2010, **MARY R. STORER**, age 40, formerly of Wood River, Illinois, was sentenced to thirty [30] months imprisonment as a result of her convictions for Tax Evasion, Willful Failure to File Federal Income Tax Returns, Embezzlement From An Employee Benefit Plan, and Failure To Pay Employment Taxes. **STORER** was additionally ordered to serve three [3] years supervised release and pay restitution in the amount of \$266,056 to the victim, Elk Heating and Cooling, and \$76,267.29 to the Internal Revenue Service.

The convictions are the result of **STORER's** conduct after she was hired by Elk Heating and Sheet Metal, Inc. d/b/a Elk Heating and Cooling as their office manager in 2006. Elk Heating and Sheet Metal is a small, family-owned, heating and air conditioning company in Madison County. **STORER's** responsibilities included answering the telephones, setting up customer appointments, and handling accounts receivable and accounts payable. **STORER** was also in charge of payroll and filing and paying Elk Heating and Sheet Metal's payroll taxes. **STORER** immediately began embezzling money from Elk Heating and Sheet Metal. **STORER** gambled away almost all of the money that she embezzled. At the sentencing, information was also presented that she had gambled heavily in 2007 with losses exceeding \$200,000 in 2007.

The investigation of the case was handled by the Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigations, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations OIG, U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefit Security Administration and the Wood River Police Department. The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith for prosecution.